

CY WHITTAKER'S PLACE

By JOSEPH C. LINCOLN

Copyright, 1908, by D. Appleton & Co.

The trio looked at each other in hesitation. Then Mr. Atkins majestically entered the dining room. Thomas and Simpson followed him.

"Abe," observed Captain Cy to Leonard, who was advancing toward the steps, "I'm sorry not to be hospitable, but there's too many of you to invite at once, and 'tain't polite to show partiality. You and the rest are welcome to sit on the terrace or stroll round the deer park. Good night."

He closed the door in the face of the disappointed Abel and turned to the three in the room.

"Well," he said, "out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

"Yes? Well, this ain't state prison or I'd give 'em to you with pleasure. Heman, you'd better do the talkin' 'Well, he said, 'out with it. You've come to claim somethin', I understand."

"I come for my rights!" shouted Mr. Thomas.

her if you dare, any of you! Anything more to say?"

But the honorable's dignity had returned. Possibly he thought he had said too much already. A moment later the door banged behind the discomfited boarding party.

Captain Cy pulled his beard and laughed.

"Well, we repelled 'em, didn't we?" he observed. "But, as friend Heman says, the beginnin's only begun. I wish he hadn't seen you here, teacher."

Miss Dawes looked up from the task of stroking poor Bos'n's hair.

"I don't," she said. "I'm glad of it."

Then she added, laughing nervously: "Cap'n Whittaker, how could you be so cool? It was like a play. I declare you were just splendid!"

CHAPTER XIV.

BAYPORT was boiling over with rumor and surmise. Heman had appealed to the courts, asking that Captain Cy's appointment as Bos'n's guardian be rescinded. Cy had hired Lawyer Peabody of Ostable to look out for his interests.

Angeline Phinney was having the time of her life. The perfect boarding house hummed like a fly trap. Keturah and Mrs. Tripp had deserted to the enemy, and the minority—meaning Asaph and Bailey—had little opportunity to defend their friend's cause, even if they had dared. Heman Atkins, his Christian charity and high mindedness, his devotion to duty regardless of political consequences and the magnificent speech at town meeting were lauded and exalted. The Bayport Breeze contained a full account of the meeting, and it was read aloud by Keturah amid hymns of praise from the elect.

Up at the Cy Whittaker place the days were full ones. There also legal questions were discussed with Georgianna, the board of strategy. Josiah Dimick occasionally and more infrequently still Miss Dawes as participants with Captain Cy in the discussions. Rumors were true in so far as they related to Mr. Atkins' appeal to the courts and the captain's retaining Lawyer Peabody of Ostable. Mr. Peabody's opinion of the case was not encouraging.

"You see, captain," he said when his client visited him at his office, "the odds are very much against us. The court appointed you as guardian with the understanding that this man Thomas was dead. Now he is alive and claims his child. More than that, he has the most influential politician in this county back of him. We wouldn't stand a fighting chance except for one thing—Thomas himself. He left his wife and the baby; deserted them, so she said; went to get work, he says. We can prove he was a drunken blackguard before he went and that he has been drunk since he came back. But they'll say—Atkins and his lawyer—that the man was desperate and despairing because of your refusal to give him his child. They'll hold him up as a repentant sinner anxious to reform and needing the little girl's influence to help keep him straight. That's their game, and they'll play it—be sure of that. It sounds reasonable enough, too, for sinners have repented before now. And the long lost father coming back to his child is the one sure thing to win applause from the gallery—you know that."

Captain Cy nodded.

He stopped, rose and, striding over to the window, stood looking out.

"How does she feel about it herself?" asked Peabody.

"Her? Bos'n? Why, that's the hardest of all. Some of the children at school pester her about her father. I don't know's you can blame 'em—young ones are made that way, I guess—but she comes home to me cryin', and it's 'Oh, Uncle Cy, he ain't my truly father, is he? and 'You won't let him take me away from you, will you? till it seems as if I should fly out of the window. The poor little thing! And that puffed up bungum Atkins blowin' about his Christianity and all! I've seen heathen Injuns, who never heard of Christ, with more of His spirit inside 'em. There! I've shocked you, I guess. Sometimes I think this place is too narrow and cramped for me. I've been around, you know, and my New England bringin' up has wore thin in spots. Seem's if I must get somewheres and spread out or I'll bust."

He threw himself into a chair. The lawyer clapped him on the shoulder.

"There, there, captain," he said. "Don't bust yet awhile. Don't give up the ship. If we lose in one court we can appeal to another, and so on up the line. And meantime we'll do a little investigating of friend Thomas' career since he left Concord. I've written to a legal acquaintance of mine in Butte, giving him the facts as we know them and a description of Thomas. He will try to find out what the fellow did in his years out west. It's our best chance, as I told you. Keep your pluck up and wait and see."

The captain repeated this conversation to the board of strategy when he returned to Bayport. Miss Dawes had walked home from school with Bos'n and had stopped at the house to hear the report. She listened, but it was evident that something else was on her mind.

"Captain Whittaker," she asked, "has it ever struck you as queer that Mr. Atkins should take such an interest in this matter? He is giving time and counsel and money to help this man Thomas, who is a perfect stranger to him. Why does he do it?"

Captain Cy smiled.

"Why?" she repeated. "Why, to down him, of course. I was gittin' too evenin' prominent in politics to suit him. I'd got you in as teacher, and I had Lono Snow as good as licked for school committee. Goodness knows what I might have run for next, 'cordin' to Heman's reasonin', and I simply had to be snatched. It worked all right. I'm so unhealthily now in the sight of most folks in this town that I calculate they go home and sulphur smoke their clothes after they meet me, so's not to catch my wickedness."

But the teacher shook her head.

"That doesn't seem reason enough to me," she declared. "Just see what Mr. Atkins has done. He never openly advocated anything in town meeting before. You said so yourself. Even when he must have realized that you had the votes for committeeman he kept still. He might have taken many of them from you by simply

him. I'd got you in as teacher, and I had Lono Snow as good as licked for school committee. Goodness knows what I might have run for next, 'cordin' to Heman's reasonin', and I simply had to be snatched. It worked all right. I'm so unhealthily now in the sight of most folks in this town that I calculate they go home and sulphur smoke their clothes after they meet me, so's not to catch my wickedness."

But the teacher shook her head.

"That doesn't seem reason enough to me," she declared. "Just see what Mr. Atkins has done. He never openly advocated anything in town meeting before. You said so yourself. Even when he must have realized that you had the votes for committeeman he kept still. He might have taken many of them from you by simply

him. I'd got you in as teacher, and I had Lono Snow as good as licked for school committee. Goodness knows what I might have run for next, 'cordin' to Heman's reasonin', and I simply had to be snatched. It worked all right. I'm so unhealthily now in the sight of most folks in this town that I calculate they go home and sulphur smoke their clothes after they meet me, so's not to catch my wickedness."

But the teacher shook her head.

"That doesn't seem reason enough to me," she declared. "Just see what Mr. Atkins has done. He never openly advocated anything in town meeting before. You said so yourself. Even when he must have realized that you had the votes for committeeman he kept still. He might have taken many of them from you by simply

him. I'd got you in as teacher, and I had Lono Snow as good as licked for school committee. Goodness knows what I might have run for next, 'cordin' to Heman's reasonin', and I simply had to be snatched. It worked all right. I'm so unhealthily now in the sight of most folks in this town that I calculate they go home and sulphur smoke their clothes after they meet me, so's not to catch my wickedness."

But the teacher shook her head.

"That doesn't seem reason enough to me," she declared. "Just see what Mr. Atkins has done. He never openly advocated anything in town meeting before. You said so yourself. Even when he must have realized that you had the votes for committeeman he kept still. He might have taken many of them from you by simply

him. I'd got you in as teacher, and I had Lono Snow as good as licked for school committee. Goodness knows what I might have run for next, 'cordin' to Heman's reasonin', and I simply had to be snatched. It worked all right. I'm so unhealthily now in the sight of most folks in this town that I calculate they go home and sulphur smoke their clothes after they meet me, so's not to catch my wickedness."

But the teacher shook her head.

"That doesn't seem reason enough to me," she declared. "Just see what Mr. Atkins has done. He never openly advocated anything in town meeting before. You said so yourself. Even when he must have realized that you had the votes for committeeman he kept still. He might have taken many of them from you by simply

him. I'd got you in as teacher, and I had Lono Snow as good as licked for school committee. Goodness knows what I might have run for next, 'cordin' to Heman's reasonin', and I simply had to be snatched. It worked all right. I'm so unhealthily now in the sight of most folks in this town that I calculate they go home and sulphur smoke their clothes after they meet me, so's not to catch my wickedness."

But the teacher shook her head.

"That doesn't seem reason enough to me," she declared. "Just see what Mr. Atkins has done. He never openly advocated anything in town meeting before. You said so yourself. Even when he must have realized that you had the votes for committeeman he kept still. He might have taken many of them from you by simply

him. I'd got you in as teacher, and I had Lono Snow as good as licked for school committee. Goodness knows what I might have run for next, 'cordin' to Heman's reasonin', and I simply had to be snatched. It worked all right. I'm so unhealthily now in the sight of most folks in this town that I calculate they go home and sulphur smoke their clothes after they meet me, so's not to catch my wickedness."

But the teacher shook her head.

"That doesn't seem reason enough to me," she declared. "Just see what Mr. Atkins has done. He never openly advocated anything in town meeting before. You said so yourself. Even when he must have realized that you had the votes for committeeman he kept still. He might have taken many of them from you by simply

him. I'd got you in as teacher, and I had Lono Snow as good as licked for school committee. Goodness knows what I might have run for next, 'cordin' to Heman's reasonin', and I simply had to be snatched. It worked all right. I'm so unhealthily now in the sight of most folks in this town that I calculate they go home and sulphur smoke their clothes after they meet me, so's not to catch my wickedness."

But the teacher shook her head.

"That doesn't seem reason enough to me," she declared. "Just see what Mr. Atkins has done. He never openly advocated anything in town meeting before. You said so yourself. Even when he must have realized that you had the votes for committeeman he kept still. He might have taken many of them from you by simply

him. I'd got you in as teacher, and I had Lono Snow as good as licked for school committee. Goodness knows what I might have run for next, 'cordin' to Heman's reasonin', and I simply had to be snatched. It worked all right. I'm so unhealthily now in the sight of most folks in this town that I calculate they go home and sulphur smoke their clothes after they meet me, so's not to catch my wickedness."

But the teacher shook her head.

"That doesn't seem reason enough to me," she declared. "Just see what Mr. Atkins has done. He never openly advocated anything in town meeting before. You said so yourself. Even when he must have realized that you had the votes for committeeman he kept still. He might have taken many of them from you by simply

him. I'd got you in as teacher, and I had Lono Snow as good as licked for school committee. Goodness knows what I might have run for next, 'cordin' to Heman's reasonin', and I simply had to be snatched. It worked all right. I'm so unhealthily now in the sight of most folks in this town that I calculate they go home and sulphur smoke their clothes after they meet me, so's not to catch my wickedness."

But the teacher shook her head.

"That doesn't seem reason enough to me," she declared. "Just see what Mr. Atkins has done. He never openly advocated anything in town meeting before. You said so yourself. Even when he must have realized that you had the votes for committeeman he kept still. He might have taken many of them from you by simply

him. I'd got you in as teacher, and I had Lono Snow as good as licked for school committee. Goodness knows what I might have run for next, 'cordin' to Heman's reasonin', and I simply had to be snatched. It worked all right. I'm so unhealthily now in the sight of most folks in this town that I calculate they go home and sulphur smoke their clothes after they meet me, so's not to catch my wickedness."

But the teacher shook her head.

"That doesn't seem reason enough to me," she declared. "Just see what Mr. Atkins has done. He never openly advocated anything in town meeting before. You said so yourself. Even when he must have realized that you had the votes for committeeman he kept still. He might have taken many of them from you by simply

him. I'd got you in as teacher, and I had Lono Snow as good as licked for school committee. Goodness knows what I might have run for next, 'cordin' to Heman's reasonin', and I simply had to be snatched. It worked all right. I'm so unhealthily now in the sight of most folks in this town that I calculate they go home and sulphur smoke their clothes after they meet me, so's not to catch my wickedness."

But the teacher shook her head.

"That doesn't seem reason enough to me," she declared. "Just see what Mr. Atkins has done. He never openly advocated anything in town meeting before. You said so yourself. Even when he must have realized that you had the votes for committeeman he kept still. He might have taken many of them from you by simply

him. I'd got you in as teacher, and I had Lono Snow as good as licked for school committee. Goodness knows what I might have run for next, 'cordin' to Heman's reasonin', and I simply had to be snatched. It worked all right. I'm so unhealthily now in the sight of most folks in this town that I calculate they go home and sulphur smoke their clothes after they meet me, so's not to catch my wickedness."

But the teacher shook her head.

"That doesn't seem reason enough to me," she declared. "Just see what Mr. Atkins has done. He never openly advocated anything in town meeting before. You said so yourself. Even when he must have realized that you had the votes for committeeman he kept still. He might have taken many of them from you by simply

him. I'd got you in as teacher, and I had Lono Snow as good as licked for school committee. Goodness knows what I might have run for next, 'cordin' to Heman's reasonin', and I simply had to be snatched. It worked all right. I'm so unhealthily now in the sight of most folks in this town that I calculate they go home and sulphur smoke their clothes after they meet me, so's not to catch my wickedness."

But the teacher shook her head.